
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5253 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF GAMING VOLUNTARY SELF-EXCLUSION RECORDS AND ALLOWING SINGLE-USE STORED VALUE INSTRUMENTS TO BE USED TO FUND CERTAIN KENO AND LOTTERY ACCOUNTS.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the use of single-use stored value instruments (e.g., gift cards or value vouchers) bought from a lottery sales agent to fund a person's online gaming account for playing keno or lottery draw games through the state lottery's online platforms. Under the bill, only cash or debit cards may be used to purchase these instruments.

The bill also generally expands privacy protections for people participating in voluntary self-exclusion processes from gaming entities. These protections allow people to choose to limit their gaming account spending or block themselves from making an account or placing wagers.

Under current law, the name and personally identifying information of participants in the Connecticut Lottery Corporation's (CLC's) voluntary self-exclusion process are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The bill extends this exemption to participants in the voluntary self-exclusion processes that (1) must be established with the gaming services provided by master wagering licensees (generally CLC and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes) and their associated licensed online gaming operators, online gaming service providers, and sports wagering retailers and (2) must be regulated by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). (Under existing regulations, the department must create and maintain a voluntary self-exclusion list, and online gaming operators and sports wagering retailers must submit certain requests for voluntary self-exclusion to DCP (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 12-865-23).)

However, under current law, CLC may disclose the name and any relevant records, other than participation in its exclusion process, of a person who (1) claims a winning online lottery ticket, (2) claims or is paid a winning online or retail sports wager, or (3) is paid a fantasy contest prize. The bill expands this exception to allow CLC to disclose when someone wins any lottery ticket. The bill creates an additional exception to allow DCP and CLC to disclose the self-exclusion participants' information to the above gaming entities as necessary to achieve the purposes of the exclusion processes.

Lastly, the bill makes conforming changes.

*House Amendment "A" (1) limits how single-use stored value instruments may be purchased to cash and debit cards only and (2) extends its FOIA exemptions to the voluntary self-exclusion process created by DCP.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/08/2022)

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (04/13/2022)